

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 EUR-12
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P R 280830Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3445
AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 MONROVIA 0699

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, LI
SUBJECT: HOROWITZ VISIT TO MONROVIA ON ILO MATTERS

1. SUMMARY: US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ILO DANIEL L. HOROWITZ MET JANUARY 24-25 WITH HIGH RANKING LIBERIAN OFFICIALS (INCLUDING ILO DELEGATES REPRESENTING GOVERNMENT, LABOR AND BUSINESS) AND DISCUSSED US CONCERNS AT THE ILO. IN SEPARATE MMETINGS WITH MINISTER OF LABOR J. JENKINS PEAL, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS C. CECIL DENNIS, JR., AND WORKERS DELEGATE AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED WORKERS DELEGATE AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED WORKERS CONGRESS (UWC) ESMAEL SHERIF, HOROWITZ REVIEWED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE US LETTER OF INTENT TO
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WITHDRAW. HE REAFFIRMED THE US COMMITMENT TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE ILO AS WELL AS THE SERIOUSNESS OF OUR RESOLVE TO WITHDRAW IF THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION DID NOT CONCRETELY DEMONSTRATE THROUGH THEIR VOTES SUPPORT FOR THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLES OF THE ORGANIZATION. IN RESPONSE TO REPEATED ASSURANCES OF LIBERIAN SYMPATHY FOR US CONCERNS AND PLEAS THAT THE UNITED STATES MAINTAIN ITS ILO MEMBERSHIP, HOROWITZ STRESSED

THAT OUR FINAL DECISION WHETHER TO CONTINUE OUR MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE BASED IN GREAT PART ON AN ASSESSMENT OF THE FEBRUARY GOVERNING BODY (GB) MEETING AND THE JUNE ANNUAL CONFERENCE. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT AT THE FORTHCOMING GB SESSION, THE USG WOULD CLOSELY OBSERVE THE OUTCOME OF THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE 17 TO SET UP TWO CATEGORIES OF NON-RECEIVABLE RESOLUTIONS AND THE GB'S ACTION ON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S (DG) REPORT ON ISRAEL.

GOL OFFICIALS QUALIFIED A RATHER AMBIGUOUS PROMISE "TO DO ALL WITHIN THEIR POWER TO HELP SEE THAT THE ILO LIVES UP TO ITS PRINCIPLES", BY NOTING THAT THE GOL IS FORCED TO CONSIDER MANY CIRCUMSTANCES BEFORE TAKING POSITIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA. LABOR DELEGATE SHERIF AND BUSINESS DELEGATE REGIS HUSTON WERE MORE FORTHRIGHT IN EXPRESSING THEIR WILLINGNESS TO TAKE POSITIONS CONSISTENT WITH ILO PRINCIPLES AND TO WORK ACTIVELY TO CORRECT THOSE DEVELOPMENTS THAT HAD IMPRAIRED THE PROPER FUNCTIONING OF THE ORGANIZATION. AS A RESULT OF HIS DISCUSSIONS AND THE ACCOMPANYING MEDIA COVERAGE, HOROWITZ" VISIT HAS SERVED TO FOCUS HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF POSSIBLE US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO. HE HAS REMINDED THE GOL THAT THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES PRIORITY TO THE ILO AND THAT WE WILL CLOSELY OBSERVE LIBERIAN VOTES ON ISSUES THAT DEMONSTRATE ADHERENCE TO BASIC ILO PRINCIPLES. END SUMMARY.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF HOROWITZ" MEETINGS WITH LIBERIAN OFFICIALS FOLLOW:

A. PEAL MEETING: IN A 90-MINUTE MEETING JANUARY 24 HOROWITZ DISCUSSED US CONCERNS AT THE ILO WITH MINISTER OF
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LABOR J. JENKINS PEAL, ASSISTANT LABOR MINISTER ETHELBERT COOPER (THE GOL OFFICIAL MOST ACTIVE IN ILO AFFAIRS), ASSISTANT LABOR MINISTER THELMA NELSON, AND DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL LABOR IGNATIUS WISSEH. AFTER REVIEWING THE BASIS FOR THE US LETTR OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW, HOROWITZ CLARIFIED THE PURPOSE OF HIS MISSION, AND OPENED THE MEETING UP FOR A GENERALK DISCUSSION OF ILO PROBLEMS. PEAL UNDERLINED LIBERIA'S GREAT CONCERN OVER A POSSIBLE US WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO AND STRESSED THAT US WITHDRAWAL WOULD DESTROY THE ILO. HE NOTED THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE UNITED STATES AS A LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD AND THE US FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ILO. PEAL SAID THE GOL ITSELF RECOGNIZED THAT CERTAIN TENDENCIES AT THE ILO WERE NEITHER FAIR NOR COMPATIBLE WITH THE ILO CHARTER. HE SAID THAT WITH THE ADMISSION OF COMMUNIST COUNTRIES TO THE ILO IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT THE PRINCIPLE OF TRIPARTITISM WOULD BE ERODED BUT REAFFIRMED LIBERIA'S OWN COMMITMENT TO A SEPARATION OF GOVERNMENT, LABOR AND BUSINESS. HOROWITZ STRESSED THAT EAST EUROPEAN MEMBERS MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THOSE CONVENTIONS WHICH THEY VOLUNTARILY RATIFIED. IN COMMENTING ON THE SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT

OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTIONS, PEAL EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS GRATIFIED THAT THE US HAD BROUGHT ATTENTION TO THIS ISSUE, FOR LIBERIA ITSELF HAD "BEEN VICTIMIZED BY THE ILO." HE SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS REPEATEDLY ATTACKED LIBERIA WHILE IGNORING MANY COUNTRIES WITH GROSS VIOLATIONS OF BASIC WORKER'S RIGHTS. ON THE GUARANTEE OF DUE PROCESS, PEAL REITERATED LIBERIA'S OWN COMMITMENT TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND "THE RIGHT FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A DAY IN COURT." PEAL, HOWEVER, ARGUED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DEPOLITICIZE THE ILO SINCE POLITICS AND ECONOMICS WERE SO CLOSELY INTERTWINED. HE SAID THAT DUE TO THE DERIVATION OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES, THEY FELT IT IMPORTANT TO ARTICULATE THEIR CONCERNS IN AS MANY FORA AS POSSIBLE. HOROWITZ AGREED THAT MANY ISSUES APPROPRIATE TO THE ILO HAVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS BUT CITED THOSE EXAMPLES, SUCH AS THE CONDEMNATION OF CHILE AND ISRAEL WITHOUT INVESTIGATION, WHERE SOME NATIONS CHOSE TO IGNORE THE ILO'S INVESTIGATIVE MACHINERY IN ORDER TO GAIN SHORT TERM POLITICAL ADVANTAGE AT THE EXPENSE OF

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ILO PRINCIPLES. HOROWITZ SAID THAT THE US RECOGNIZES THE VALUE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA) AS A FORUM FOR THE EXPRESSION OF PURELY POLITICAL CONCERNS BUT HE STRESSED THAT WE HAVE NO INTEREST IN BELONGING TO A SECOND UNGA. HOROWITZ EXPLAINED THE INTEREST THE US ATTACHED TO THE OUTCOME OF ISSUES AT THE FORTHCOMING GB MEETING. HE EXPLAINED THE RATIONALE BEHIND THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE 17 OF THE STANDING ORDERS AND INDICATED THE INTEREST THE US ATTACHES TO THE GB'S ACTION ON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S (DG) REPORT ON ISRAEL. CARTER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 MONROVIA 0699

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COOPER EXPRESSED HIS OWN PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE ILO AND ASKED HOROWITZ ABOUT HIS PERCEPTION OF RECENT PROGRESS MADE IN RETURNING THE ILO TO ITS BASIC PRINCIPLES. HOROWITZ REPLIED THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME PROGRESS BUT THAT IT HAS BEEN A MIXED PICTURE. ALTHOUGH THE COMMITTEE HAD AT LAST AGREED TO LOOK AT THAT FAILURE OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO UPHOLD ILO CONVENTIONS ON FORCED LABOR AND FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION BY NOTING THE ABUSES BY THE SOVIET UNION, HOROWITZ NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE AT THE LAST MINUTE REFUSED TO CONSIDER SIMILAR VIOLATIONS
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BY CZECHOSLOVAKIA. HOROWITZ WAS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT MOST COUNTRIES HAD EXERCISED RESTRAINT ON THE FILING OF PURELY POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS BUT THERE WERE IMPORTANT EXCEPTIONS AS WELL. HOROWITZ REPEATED THAT NO FIRM DECISION HAD YET BEEN MADE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO BUT THAT RATHER THE UNITED STATES WOULD CAREFULLY ASSESS THE RESULTS OF THE 1977 GB AND GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS. TO COOPER'S ARGUMENT THAT THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CONSULTATION WITH ILO MEMBERS PRIOR THE THE US LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW, HOROWITZ DETAILED OUR PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO DIRECT THE ILO BACK TO ITS FOUNDING PRINCIPLES. COOPER NOTED THAT LIBERIA AGREED WITH THE BASIC ILO PRINCIPLES BUT THAT LIBERIA WAS "A SMALL VOICE IN THE STORM." HOROWITZ STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF EVERY VOICE AND NOTED THAT THE AFRICAN NATIONS WOULD CHOOSE THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE IN 1977 AND THAT LIBERIA COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN CHOOSING A MODERATE. HOROWITZ ALSO NOTED THAT DURING HIS RECENT MEETINGS WITH OTHER LEADERS HE WAS LED TO BELIEVE THAT A MAJORITY OF THE WORLD SUPPORTED THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ILO.

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM PEAL ABOUT THE US VIEW OF

REGIONAL GROUPINGS, HOROWITZ EMPHASIZED THAT WE ACCEPTED THE ILO TRADITION OF GENERAL REGIONAL GROUPINGS BUT DEPLORED THE MANIPULATION OF SUCH BODIES AS THE GROUP OF 77 BY AN EXTREME MINORITY WHO OFTEN SET AN ATMOSPHERE THAT FORCE THE MAJORITY TO JOIN IN COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE CONFRONTATION. HOROWITZ NOTED THAT THE NEXT AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD IN TRIPOLI WITH A LIBYAN CHAIRMAN. HE HOPED THAT THE MORE MODERATE AFRICAN NATIONS WOULD COORDINATE THEIR POSITIONS AND PREVENT THE CONFERENCE FROM BEING DOMINATED BY THE RADICAL STATES.

PEAL RAISED SEVERAL SPECIFIC LIBERIAN CONCERNS. HE REMARKED THAT IN SPITE OF LIBERIA HAVING BEEN A FOUNDING MEMBER AND HER CONSTANT SUPPORT FOR THE ILO, LIBERIA HAS ONLY ONE LOWER ECHELON OFFICIAL EMPLOYED BY THE ILO. IN NOTING THAT LIBERIA HAS AVAILABLE LOCAL TALENT, PEAL ASKED IF THE US DELEGATION COULD USE ITS INFLUENCE TO HELP PUSH FOR AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF

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ILO SALARIED POSITIONS HELD BY LIBERIANS. HOROWITZ PROMISED TO RAISE THE ISSUE WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL. PEAL ALSO NOTED THAT IN RECENT YEARS THE LABOR MINISTRY HAD NOT RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM THE USG AND WONDERED IF AID PROGRAMS FOR THE MINISTRY MIGHT BE AVAILABLE. PEAL EXPLAINED THAT UNDP PROGRAMS WERE NO LONGER AVAILABLE. HOROWITZ AND DCM HORAN PROMISED TO LOOK INTO POSSIBLE AID PROGRAMS FOR THE LABOR MINISTRY.

AS THE MEETING CONCLUDED, PEAL AND COOPER JOKED ABOUT ILO'S RECENT "MEDDLING IN LIBERIAN MARITIME AFFAIRS" AND INDICATED THAT LIBERIA WOULD NOT ACCEPT FLAG DISCRIMINATION.

B. PEAL LUNCHEON FOR HOROWITZ: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MORNING MEETING AT THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, MINISTER OF LABOR PEAL HOSTED A LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF HOROWITZ. NUMBERING AMONG THE GUESTS WERE DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS T. SIAFA SHERMAN, THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MOMULU DUKULY, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE SHAD TUBMAN, JR., AND TOP LIBERIAN LABOR MINISTRY AND TRADE UNION OFFICIALS. EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE WAS GIVEN TO THE LUNCHEON AND TO THE PURPOSE OF HOROWITZ' VISIT. DURING HIS TOAST TO CONTINUE US PARTICIPATION IN THE ILO, PEAL LAUDED THE ILO'S ROLE AS THE "REPOSITORY OF THE WORLD'S CONSCIENCE FOR LABOR AFFAIRS" AND NOTED THAT LIBERIA HAD BENEFITTED FROM A NUMBER OF ILO PROGRAMS. PEAL STRESSED LIBERIA'S COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ILO AND PROMISED TO BE FAITHFUL TO THOSE PRINCIPLES

HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE ROLE PLAYED BY SAMUEL GOMPERS IN WRITING THE ILO CONSTITUTION AND SAID THAT LIBERIA COULD NOT CONCEIVE OF AN ILO WITHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

HOROWITZ' TOAST IN REPLY WAS BUILT AROUND A QUOTE FROM

PRESIDENT CARTER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS THAT "WE MUST ADJUST TO CHANGING TIMES AND STILL HOLD TO UNCHANGING PRINCIPLES." HOROWITZ STRESSED THAT THE UNITED STATES WANTED TO STAY IN THE ILO AND WORK TO MODIFY THOSE TENDENCIES THAT HAVE LED THE

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ORGANIZATION AWAY FROM ITS PRINCIPLES. HOROWITZ SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY MINISTER PEAL'S REMARKS BUT REMARKED THAT WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT MUST BE TRANSLATED INTO VOTES WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION.

IN CONVERSATION WITH PEAL DURING THE LUNCHEON, HOROWITZ REITERATED HIS POINTS THAT CONFRONTATION WAS NO WAY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS AND THAT THE INITIATIVE LAY WITH MODERATE THIRD WORLD NATIONS TO RESTRAIN THOSE EXTREMISTS INTENT ON MANIPULATING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES.

C. MEETING WITH DENNIS: FOLLOWING THE LUNCHEON HOROWITZ CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER C. CECIL DENNIS, JR. HOROWITZ OUTLINED IN BROAD TERMS THE US POSITION AS REGARDS THE ILO AND STRESSED THAT CONCRETE ACTIONS WERE NEEDED FROM THOSE COUNTRIES WHO SUPPORTED THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ILO. ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT LABOR MINISTER PEAL WAS ENTRUSTED WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ILO, DENNIS EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR DIRECTLY THE RATIONALE UNDERLYING THE LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW. COINCIDENTALLY, DENIS ALSO QUOTED PRESIDENT CARTER'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO ADJUST TO CHANGING TIMES AND STILL HOLD TO UNCHANGING PRINCIPLES. DENNIS APPEALED FOR THE UNITED STATES AS A MATURE NATION TO EXERCISE PATIENCE, TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING. DENNIS FELT THAT CONTINUED US PARTICIPATION IN THE ILO PROMISED THE CHANCE TO REFORM THE ILO WHILE OUR WITHDRAWAL WOULD LEAD TO A COLLAPSE OF THE ORGANIZATION. DENNIS EXPLAINED HOW LIBERIA UNDERSTOOD OUR VIEWS AND WOULD LIKE MORE FORCEFULLY TO ARTICULATE THEM. HE SAID THAT MODERATE MEMBERS OF THE THIRD WORLD AND THE OAU, LIKE LIBERIA, ARE NOT YET STRONG ENOUGH TO STAND UP TO THE WAVE OF LESS MODERATE SPOKESMEN. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF LIBERIANS IN THE ILO STRUCTURE WOULD WORK TO ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE ACTIONS BY THE ORGANIZATION. DENNIS SAID THAT HE DOUBTED IF ANY AFRICAN COUNTRY WANTS THE US TO PULL OUT OF THE ILO BUT CAUTIONED THAT THE US SHOULD BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO CREATE THE IMPRESSION THAT IT IS WITHDRAWING BECAUSE IT LACKS

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A VETO POWER OVER THE ILO. IN RETURN, HOROWITZ STRESSED THE POINT THAT OUR LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW WAS NOT MEANT AS A

THREAT BUT WAS RATHER A SINCERE EXPRESSION OF US FRUSTRATION
OVER THE NEGATIVE TREND THAT WAS TURNING THE ILO INTO ANOTHER
UNGA. HOROWITZ MENTIONED THE ISSUES AT THE FORTHCOMING GB MEETING
WHICH THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE FOLLOWING CLOSELY.
DENNIS REPLIED THAT HE WAS IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT ON SPECIFIC
ILO ISSUES BUT THAT "LIBERIA WILL VOTE FOR THE US TO STAY IN THE ILO.
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 MONROVIA 0699

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D. DCM HORAN DINNER FOR HOROWITZ: A DINNER BY DCM HORAN
PROVIDED HOROWITZ WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY
ILO ISSUES WITH THE GUESTS WHICH INCLUDED MINISTER PEAL,
AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE EMMETT HARMON, TRADE UNION AND LABOR
MINISTRY OFFICIALS, AND THE LIBERIAN BUSINESS DELEGATE TO THE
ILO REGIS HUSTON. IN A LENGTHY CONVERSATION WITH HOROWITZ,

HUSTON SAID THAT HE AGREED COMPLETELY WITH THE US POSITION AT THE ILO AND WOULD WORK TO HELP AMEND ARTICLE 17. HUSTON SAID HE WOULD SPEAK TO PRESIDENT TOLBERT, WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS A CLOSE CONFIDENTIAL

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FRIEND, AND WOULD STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ILO AND THE NECESSITY OF TAKING POSITIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ORGANIZATION. HUSTON SAID THAT HE AND PEAL GENERALLY AGREED WITH ONE ANOTHER ON ILO ISSUES. HUSTON CLAIMED THAT AT THE 1975 CONFERENCE,, PEAL WAS PREPARED TO VOTE AGAINST SEATING THE PLO BUT THAT FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS INSTRUCTED PEAL TO VOTE WITH THE MAJORITY IN THE INTERESTS OF AFRO-ARAB UNITY. HUSTON FELT THAT THE CLIMATE HAD NOW CHANGED AND THAT THE GOL WAS UNDER LESS PRESSURE TO CONFORM TO ARAB PRESSURES.

E. MEETING WITH SHERIF: PRIOR TO HOROWITZ' DEPARTURE THE MORNING OF JANUARY 25, HE MET WITH ESMAEL SHERIF, ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED WORKERS CONGRESS (UWC) AND WORKER'S DELEGATE TO THE ILO. UWC SECRETARY-GENERAL WALKER AND CHIEF OF GRIEVANCES GEORGE WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE. HOROWITZ ELABORATED ON THE US PERCEPTION OF PROBLEMS AT THE ILO AND THE NEED TO TRANSLATE SUPPORT INTO VOTES. SHERIF AGREED THAT THE ILO SHOULD NOT BE DOMINATED BY POLITICS AND UNDERLINED THE WORKING MAN'S APPRECIATION FOR THE INVESTIGATIVE WORK DONE BY THE ILO. SHERIF MENTIONED HIS OWN CORRESPONDENCE WITH GEORGE MEANY AND HIS PERSONAL APPEAL TO THE AFL-CIO TO SUPPORT CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE ILO. SHERIF SAID THAT THE LIBERIAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IS ONE OF THE FREEST IN AFRICA AND THAT THE UWC HAD DEMONSTRATED ITS INDEPENDENCE BY, AN OCCASION, VOTING IN OPPOSITION TO THE GOL AT THE ILO. HE REMINDED HOROWITZ THAT LIBERIAN LABOR HAD VOTED AGAINST THE SEATING OF PLO AT THE 1975 ILO SESSION. SHERIF NOTED THAT HE HAD HELPED WORK TO PUT THE USSR ON THE LIST OF COUNTRIES VIOLATING ILO CONVENTIONS. HE CLAIMED THAT THE UWC ITSELF WOULD ULTIMATELY BE THE VICTIM IF THE ILO WERE TO FAIL. THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITH A DISCUSSION OF INTRA-LIBERIAN LABOR POLITICS DURING WHICH BOTH WALKER AND SHERIF PASSIONATELY ATTACKED THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER (AALC) FOR SUPPORTING THE RIVAL LIBERIAN CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, ON PARTING, SHERIF ASSURED HOROWITZ OF ACTIVE LIBERIAN LABOR SUPPORT IN HELPING TO DEPOLITICIZE THE ILO AND TO BRING THE ILO BACK TO ITS FOUNDING

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PRINCIPLES.

3. COMMENT: HOROWITZ' VISIT HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY USEFUL IN

FOCUSING HIGH LEVEL GOL ATTENTION TO US CONCERNS AT THE ILO. DURING MEETINGS WITH KEY LIBERIAN OFFICIALS, HOROWITZ HAS REMINDED THE GOL THAT THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES PRIORITY TO THE ILO AND THAT WE WILL CLOSELY OBSERVE LIBERIAN VOTES ON ISSUES THAT DEMONSTRATE ADHERENCE TO BASIC ILO PRINCIPLES. HOROWITZ' DEMARCHES HERE UNDOUBTEDLY FORCED THE LIBERIAN DELEGATION TO AT LEAST PAUSE TO CONSIDER MORE FULLY ITS ACTIONS BEFORE JOINING RANK WITH A MAJORITY OF THIRD WORLD STATES IN SUPPORTING HOSTILE AND COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE POSITIONS. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE GOL WILL PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE AT THIS TIME IN SUPPORTING AND LOBBYING FOR US POSITIONS AT THE ILO. IT WILL CONTINUE TO OBSERVE CLOSELY WHAT SUPPORT THE US HAS BEEN ABLE TO MUSTER, ESPECIALLY FROM OTHER OAU MEMBERS, AND ACT ACCORDING TO ITS ASSESSMENT AT THE TIME. IF IT GETS TOO MUCH PRESSURE FROM BOTH SIDES IT MAY ABSENT ITSELF FROM EMBARRASSING VOTES. LIBERIAN LABOR AND BUSINESS DELEGATES CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE MORE FORTHRIGHT IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR US POSITIONS AT THE ILO EXCEPT IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT PUTS GREAT PRESSURES ON THEM TO CONFORM TO ITS POSITION. END COMMENT. CARTER

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